

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, November 15, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair
Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Karen Hale
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. David L. Hogue

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Chair Dayton made amendments to the October 18, 2006 minutes.

MOTION: Rep. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2006 meeting, as amended. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Arent and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

Supt. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, distributed a letter sent to Congressman Bishop along with an attachment, "Utah's Position on Revising Language in NCLB (No Child Left Behind)." She presented an overview of Utah's position on revising language in NCLB and responded to questions.

2. Sunset Review - Title 53A, Chapter 20a, Public Education Revenue Bond Act

Mr. Larry Newton, Director of Finance and Statistics, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), noted that in accordance with the Public Education Revenue Bond Act, the State Board of Education may authorize the issuance of bonds to pay for capital facilities projects of certain educational institutions. The act will be repealed on July 1, 2007 unless reauthorized by the Legislature. Mr. Newton stated the State Board of Education had never exercised its authority under the Public Education Revenue Bond Act and recommended that the act be allowed to sunset.

3. Sunset Review - Section 53A-1-403.5, Education of Persons in the Custody of the Department of Corrections

Chair Dayton explained that Utah Code Section 53A-1-403.5 provides that the State Board of Education and the State Board of Regents, subject to legislative appropriations, are responsible for the education of

persons in the custody of the Department of Corrections. The Boards are directed to develop and implement a recidivism reduction plan and to report on the effectiveness of the plan to the Education Interim Committee. Section 53A-1-403.5 will be repealed on July 1, 2007 unless reauthorized by the Legislature.

Mr. Jeff Galli, USOE, and Mr. Gary Wixom, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, distributed and reviewed a handout, "Educating Offenders: A Wise Investment - Executive Summary." Mr. Galli presented an overview of the sunset report and recommended reauthorization of Section 53A-1-403.5.

Mr. Wixom spoke in support of reauthorization of the corrections education program.

MOTION: Rep. Dougall moved to reauthorize Section 53A-1-404.5 for two years.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Hale moved to reauthorize Section 53A-1-404.5 for five years. The motion passed with Rep. Ferrin, Rep. Johnson, and Rep. Newbold voting in opposition. Sen. Arent and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

4. Reports

Engineering and Computer Science Initiative Report

Mr. John Sutherland, Technology Initiative Advisory Board, reviewed the report, "Utah's Engineering Initiative 2006 Report," which was distributed in the mailing packet. He noted that the initiative has produced a 53 percent increase in engineering graduates between 2000 and 2006. He recommended continuing to move forward with the Engineering Initiative and requested that the state complete the initiative with \$5,000,000 in new ongoing funds.

Dean Richard B. Brown, Dean of Engineering, University of Utah, spoke in support of the Engineering Initiative and indicated the University of Utah had a 25 percent base budget increase and has awarded an additional 60 to 70 engineering degrees.

Dean Scott Hinton, Utah State University, spoke in support of the Engineering Initiative and responded to questions.

Public Education Job Enhancement Program

Mr. John Sutherland, Job Enhancement Committee, presented an overview of the report, "Public Education Job Enhancement Program," which was distributed in the mailing packet. Mr. Sutherland recommended that the Public Education Job Enhancement Program's ongoing appropriation of \$2,500,000 per year be continued.

Mr. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE, commented on the award categories of the program and responded to questions.

Applied Technology Education for Secondary School Students

Ms. Mary Shumway, Director, Career and Technical Education, USOE, presented an overview of the report, "Meeting the Needs of Utah's Secondary Students in Career & Technical Education," which was distributed in the mailing packet. She also distributed "Report of Career and Technical Education."

Ms. Shumway indicated that Utah school districts have well developed, successful career and technical education programs that meet career awareness, career exploration, and career preparation needs of public school students.

UCAT (Utah College of Applied Technology) Annual Report

Mr. Robert Brems, President, UCAT, introduced those in the audience representing applied technology colleges throughout the state. He distributed and reviewed the report, "Utah College of Applied Technology Annual Report October 2006." He commented on the growth in headcount and membership hours over the previous year.

Preliminary Report on the Professional Development Pilot Program

Mr. Ray Timothy, Deputy Superintendent, USOE, presented an overview of the report, "H.B. 100 (2004) School Professional Development Days," that was distributed in the mailing packet. He noted that, with no further action, the Professional Development Pilot Program will be repealed July 1, 2008.

5. Math Curriculum Standards

Chair Dayton noted that the issue of math curriculum standards was discussed in the October meeting.

Supt. Harrington distributed and reviewed a memorandum, "Response to WestEd Evaluation and Further Discussion regarding Utah's Math Core Curriculum." She explained that in the October 2006 meeting of the State Board of Education, the board received a report from WestEd on the evaluation of the Utah math core curriculum. WestEd indicated that while secondary math was particularly strong in Utah, elementary math needed some revision and some key standards needed increased emphasis in the core. Following board discussion, the board accepted the report and noted the need for revision, paying particular attention to elementary math standards. Supt. Harrington distributed and presented an overview of the draft resolution, "Resolution of the Public Education Interim Committee."

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to adopt the resolution of the Public Education Interim Committee endorsing a plan for the full revision of math standards by the State Board of Education. The motion passed with Sen. Arent, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Newbold, and Rep. Shurtliff voting in opposition. Sen. Hale, Rep. Johnson, and Rep. Urquhart were absent for the vote.

6. Consider Proposed Legislation, "School Truancy and Compulsory Education Amendments"

Rep. Eric Hutchings presented 2007 General Session draft legislation, "School Truancy and Compulsory Education Amendments," which was distributed in the mailing packet. He explained that the bill amends provisions related to compulsory education and truancy.

Mr. Steve Peterson, Utah School Boards Association and Superintendents Association, said last year the Utah School Boards Association and Superintendents Association formally reviewed the bill and took a position of support for the bill.

Ms. Karen Clark, Eagle Forum, commented on the bill.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Buttars, Sen. Hale, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Johnson, and Rep. Urquhart absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.